

Legislative Research
SAFLL-2

January 1962

Congressional Information

Name: Ervin, Sam J. - Democrat - Senator from North Carolina

Home: Morganton, N.C.

Born: Morganton - September 27, 1896⁷

Marital Status: Margaret Bruce Bell - three children

Military: Served with 1st Division in France WW I. Twice wounded in battle. Twice cited for gallantry in action. Received DSC. Also awarded French Fourragers, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, and Silver Star.

Education: University of North Carolina, 1917 (A.B.); Harvard, 1922 (LL.B); Honorary degrees: LL.D. Univ. N.C., 1951; LL.D. Western Carolina College, 1950; D. Pub Administration, Suffolk Univ., 1957.

Profession: Lawyer

Experience: Law practice in Morganton. Representative N.C. Assembly (1923, 1925, and 1931). Judge: Burke County Criminal Court, N.C. Superior Court. U.S. House of Representatives (79th Cong.). Associate Justice N.C. Supreme Court (1942-54). Appointed by Governor to succeed to late Clyde R. Heey as Senator. Later, elected for unexpired term; reelected in 1956 by largest majorities ever given a Senatorial candidate in N.C. for term ending January 2, 1963.

Bases: Pope, Seymour Johnson

Committees: Armed Services (Subcommittees: Officer Grade Limitation; Status of Forces Treaty-Chairman; Land Reentry Rights-Chairman; Aircraft Procurement Reprograming Request)

Government Operations (Subcommittee on Investigations)

Judiciary (Subcommittees: Immigration; Judicial Machinery; Revision & Codification-Chairman; Constitutional Rights-Chairman; Internal Security Act; Trading With the Enemy Act)

Member: American and N.C. Bar Assns.; American Judicature Society; American Legion; Army and Navy Legion of Valor; DAV; Society of First Div.; VFW; Knights Templar; Scottish Rite Masons; Ahopa; Dokes; Junior Order; Knights of Pythias; Moose; American Historical Assn; N.C. Society for the Preservation of Antiquities; N.C. Society of Mayflower Descendants; N.C. Folklore Society of the Cincinnati; S.C. Historical Society; Southern Historical Assn.; State Literary

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and historical Assn.; Western N.C. Historical Assn.; Morganton Kiwanis Club; President of General Alumni Assn of the U. of N.C.

86th Congress - comments --

Some bills he introduced: S. 676, create a Dept. of Science and Technology; S. 3717, enlarge Arlington Cemetery; S. 3746, authorize notarial act for persons serving with Armed Services overseas.

Remarks:

Reorganization --

Commended Sen. Engle (Calif.) for remarks on functional reorganization of national defense. Ervin called it a 'must' in the space age. (Congressional Record August 28, 1959 Page 15862)

National Defense --

Commented on subject - re: Symington Airpower Subcommittee investigation - on sufficiency of AF to perform mission. He concluded: efforts being put forward to maintain adequate national defense 'absolutely' insufficient for safety of Nation. (Cong. Record February 19, 1960 Page 2786)

Nike-Hercules --

Wash. Post (Apr. 13, 1960) - Marquis Childs reported on rivalry between Bomarc and Nike-Hercules - "Cuts in the far more modest program were resisted by Senator Sam J. Ervin, Jr. -" An important payroll in his state was involved and he served notice on the Military Construction Subcommittee that he would publicly challenge any attempt to eliminate Nike-Hercules."

DOD Procurement --

Said no matter how honest and how lefty the motives of a purchasing officer may be, to buy products for Government purposes on a negotiated contract basis, in cases where these products are manufactured by numbers of manufacturers, is the most uneconomic way for the Government to obtain its products. (Cong. Record June 13, 1960 Page 11527)

DOD Budget --

FY61 - cosponsor (Jackson amendment) to increase funds for Army modernization; and cosponsor (Proxmire amendment) to eliminate funds for Navy carrier. (Cong. Record Amendments to HR 11998, 86th Congress)

87th Congress -- comments. --

Some bills he introduced: S. 529 (cosponsor) - more effective evaluation of fiscal requirements of the executive agencies; S. 847 (cosponsor) - change name of Army and Navy Legion of Valor of the U.S.

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Information --

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights announced survey results conducted by the Subcommittee to determine extent to which information is being withheld from Senate Members by the executive departments.

Hopes people in the executive departments are aware and will fully adhere to President Kennedy's expressed wishes that there be no withholding of information to the people about our Government's conduct of its affairs, except in instances where national security warrants it. (Cong. Record April 20, 1961 Page 6018)

B-70 --

Has diligently studied foreign aid program: convinced it harms more than it helps. Recommended:

(1) program whereby US gives military help to nations like Turkey, Pakistan, Formosa, South Korea, and Philippines which have manifested willingness to stand and fight on side of free world;

(2) reasonable economic aid program to economically insufficient countries such as Formosa, South Korea, Turkey;

(3) technical assistance program to underdeveloped countries.

Said foreign aid does not strengthen our military position. It impairs it.

As member of Armed Services Committee has shared opinion of members that airlift is insufficient. Shares opinion of members of the Committee that US proceed with B-70 program. Said that despite the insistence of General White and other AF men like Gen. LeMay "we do not yet have a B-70 bomber."

Urged speed in development of Nike-Zeus or some other anti-missile missile. Ended: "Instead of maintaining adequate ground forces and obtaining essential weapons, the US has been devoting its financial resources to foreign aid." (Cong. Record August 8, 1961 Page 13975)

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